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Economic and Social Council

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Substantive session of 2012
New York, 2-27 July 2012
Agenda item 4
The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2011 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil (Egypt), on the basis of informal consultations

The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, and its outcome document, and the Outcome of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,[3]

Recalling also the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2011[4] and its resolutions 2008/29 of 24 July 2008 and 2009/29 of 31 July 2009,

Reaffirming its commitment to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, particularly those related to education, including the Education for All goals,

Reaffirming also the right to education and the need for its full realization, and that education is essential for human development, sustainable development, world peace, just and democratic societies and the promotion of all human rights, including the right to development,

[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.
[2] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.
[3] See A/CONF.216/L.1.
[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/66/3/Rev.1), chap. III, sect. E, para. 107.

Please recycle

Recognizing that the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are interlinked, expressing its concern that progress on achieving some of the goals is lagging, and reiterating its commitment to continuing to reinvigorate and strengthen the global partnership for development as a vital element for achieving those goals, in particular the education-related goals,

Recognizing the growing issue of youth unemployment and the importance of quality education, training and skills development to enhance employability and ease the transition to decent jobs, and to help remove some of the major constraints for the employability of young people, and in this respect reiterating the importance of full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes through appropriate channels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the theme of the coordination segment;[5]

2. *Recognizes* efforts made by the United Nations system to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 2, Education for All and related goals, and encourages further efforts in that regard;

3. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments to take the lead in education, and underlines the importance of commitments by national Governments, official institutions and local authorities to education, recognizing that each country has primary responsibility for and ownership of its own economic and social development, and that development strategies, national policies and domestic resources are critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All goals and calls upon the United Nations system to support those national efforts and commitments;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations system to increase its efforts and mobilize adequate resources to raise the profile of the international education agenda and maximize educational results;

5. *Looks forward* to the launch of the Secretary-General's Global Initiative on Education;

6. *Calls upon* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate and within their mandates, to give attention to addressing factors of marginalization in education for all, particularly rural and indigenous women and girls;

7. *Urges* the United Nations system to support national efforts to improve the quality of education, so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes can be achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to support the efforts of Member States to improve the collection and analysis of education data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, location and other relevant factors for effective policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

[5] E/2012/66.

9. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to support the efforts of countries to counter the portrayal of stereotyped roles of women and men that can restrain educational choices at all levels of education;

10. *Encourages* efforts to provide education in humanitarian emergencies, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the contribution of voluntary partnerships on education to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, while reiterating that they are a complement to, but not intended to substitute for, the commitment made by Governments with a view to achieving those goals;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to act as a framework provider and a facilitator for partnerships on education with a wide range of relevant stakeholders, with a view to building trust among all actors and sharing good practices and lessons learned for the final push to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All goals;

13. *Urges* the relevant United Nations entities working in the education, health and food sectors, within their respective mandates, to seek synergies in order to enhance enrolment, retention, participation and achievement of girls and boys at school and maximize interventions to the benefit of children;

14. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations entities and the international financial institutions working in the economic and educational fields to strengthen their collaboration in order to advance, as appropriate, technical and vocational training, higher education, access and participation in the workforce and the promotion of entrepreneurship among youth;

15. *Encourages* relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, to assess emerging trends in education and training, particularly the increased focus on learning outcomes, teacher training and the use of information and communication technologies in education processes, and to analyse the implications for their programmes on education;

16. *Stresses* that when assisting Member States, upon their request, in determining future policy options, the United Nations system should have a broad vision that encompasses early childhood care and education, youth and adult literacy, vocational skills development as well as concern for the improvement of the quality and relevance of basic learning;

17. *Stresses* that achieving development goals on education requires a coordinated and integrated approach in support of national and local efforts, involving all relevant stakeholders, including, as appropriate, civil society and the private sector;

18. *Encourages* giving appropriate consideration to education in the processes devoted to the definition of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda;

19. *Decides* to continue monitoring progress in education-related development goals and commitments, including the role of partnerships in education.

United Nations E/2012/L.10

Economic and Social Council

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6 July 2012

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Substantive session of 2012
New York, 2-27 July 2012
Agenda item 2 (c)
High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Draft ministerial declaration of the 2012 high-level segment, submitted by the President

Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals

The Ministers and heads of delegations participating in the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, held in New York from 2 to 9 July 2012,

Having considered the theme of the high-level segment, "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals",

Reaffirming the commitments to promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work made at the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, environmental, social and related fields,

Recalling the outcome of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and expressing our gratitude to the Government and people of Qatar for hosting the Conference,

Recalling also the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and expressing our gratitude to the Government and people of Brazil for hosting the Conference,

Recalling further the holding by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the Third International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education and Training, held in Shanghai, China, from 13 to 16 May 2012,

Looking forward to the International High-level Conference on Decent Work, to be held in Moscow on 11 and 12 December 2012,

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Reaffirming the resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, a central objective of our relevant national and international policies as well as our national development strategies, including poverty eradication strategies, as part of our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming also that the eradication of poverty is one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries, as well as in some middle-income countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable, broad-based, inclusive economic growth, including full and productive employment generation and decent work,

Recalling article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment, and reaffirming the international commitments and obligations of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the relevant internationally agreed labour standards of the International Labour Organization, and all human rights, including the right to development,

Reaffirming our commitment to the achievement of all of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, by, inter alia, promoting productive capacities, full and productive employment and decent work for all,

Recalling the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its follow-up,

Reaffirming the leading role of the International Labour Organization in promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all,

Expressing deep concern about the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people,

Recognizing the need to strengthen the productive capacity of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, including to address their infrastructure deficits,

Recognizing also the contribution of the Youth Forum, held by the Economic and Social Council in New York on 4 May 2012, to the deliberations of the Council on productive capacity, employment and decent work,

Recognizing further the contributions and recommendations of the regional preparatory meetings for the annual ministerial review of 2012,

Have adopted the following declaration:

1. We express deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, cognizant that the global economy is entering a challenging new phase with significant downside risks, including the turbulence in global financial and commodity markets and widespread fiscal strains, which threaten the global economic recovery, and stress the need to continue to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and the need for continuing efforts to promote productive capacity, employment and decent work.

2. We recognize that the world faces serious social, environmental and economic challenges, and that the achievement of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development remains critical. We reaffirm the resolve to take concrete action to implement the Monterrey Consensus and to address the challenges of financing for development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

3. We recognize that people are at the centre of sustainable development and in this regard we strive for a world that is just, equitable and inclusive, and we commit to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all.

4. We acknowledge the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions.

5. We recall the resolve to take urgent action to achieve sustainable development. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to sustainable development, assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges. We reaffirm the resolve to make further progress on the themes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, namely, a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

6. We stress that the promotion of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth is necessary for accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, as well as for promoting sustainable development, but that it is not sufficient, and that growth should enable everyone, in particular the poor, to participate in and benefit from economic opportunities and should lead to job creation and income opportunities and be complemented by effective social policies.

7. We call for increased efforts to enhance coordination at all levels, with a view to strengthening national development strategies, stimulating investment in productive capacities, helping to start and grow businesses and promoting opportunities for full and productive employment and decent work for all.

8. We support continued efforts to put productive employment at the heart of actions to restore growth and promote a job-rich recovery at the national, regional and global levels, including through sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, by reinforcing cooperation and coherence in this area within the United Nations system and together with the international financial institutions.

9. We commit to embracing the policy approaches contained in the Global Jobs Pact, as appropriate, and to introducing measures tailored to each country's circumstances and priorities.

10. We stress the need to provide social protection to all members of society, fostering growth, resilience, social justice and cohesion, including those who are not employed in the formal economy. In this regard, we strongly encourage national and local initiatives aimed at providing social protection floors for all citizens. We support global dialogue on best practices for social protection programmes that takes into account the three dimensions of sustainable development and, in this

regard, we take note of International Labour Organization recommendation 202 concerning national floors for social protection.

11. We reiterate the need to adopt forward-looking policies, including macroeconomic policies, that are aimed at the achievement of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, poverty eradication and low and stable inflation and that seek to minimize domestic and external imbalances to ensure that the benefits of growth reach all people, especially the poor, and to integrate those policies, in a coherent manner, with social and employment objectives, with a focus on mutually supportive strategies that lead to the rapid expansion of productive employment at adequate levels of remuneration.

12. We emphasize the need for more effective government involvement so as to ensure appropriate regulation of the market, which promotes productive capacity, full employment and decent work.

13. We recognize that a dynamic, inclusive, well-functioning and socially responsible private sector is a valuable instrument for generating economic growth and reducing poverty, emphasize the need to pursue, at the national level and in a manner consistent with national laws, appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks through which to encourage public and private initiatives, including at the local level, and to foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector, while improving income growth and distribution, raising productivity, empowering women and protecting labour rights and the environment, and reiterate the importance of ensuring that the benefits of growth reach all people by empowering individuals and communities.

14. We recognize that in order to achieve equitable development and foster a vibrant economy, it is vital to have a financial infrastructure that provides access to a variety of sustainable products and services for micro, small and medium-sized businesses, with particular emphasis on women, rural populations and the poor. We will make sure that the benefits of growth reach all people by empowering individuals and communities and by improving access to services in the fields of finance and credit. We recognize that microfinance, including microcredit, has proven to be effective in generating productive self-employment, which can contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

15. We also reaffirm the need to develop and promote active labour market policies, including for the full participation of women and men in both rural and urban areas, to alleviate unemployment and underemployment.

16. We recognize the need to design education and training programmes that improve employability and individual capacities through skills development.

17. We urge States and, as appropriate, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, as well as civil society, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, media and other relevant actors to continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance the employability of women and youth and to ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work, including by improving access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining, long-distance

education, including in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills, particularly in developing countries, including with a view to supporting women's economic empowerment in the different stages of their lives.

18. We encourage Member States to adopt and implement human resources development strategies premised on national development objectives that ensure a strong link between education, health, training and employment, help to maintain a productive and competitive workforce and are responsive to the needs of the economy.

19. We recognize the importance of developing policies, including effective labour market policies and legislation, as appropriate, that support statutory or negotiated minimum wage systems, acceptable conditions of work, strengthened labour standards, where necessary, and institutions of collective bargaining and labour administration, in order to, inter alia, avoid deflationary wage spirals, increase demand, promote economic stability, reduce poverty and inequality and achieve social justice.

20. We stress the need to build a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in agriculture, manufacturing and services in the least developed countries, which is essential if they are to benefit from greater integration into the global economy, increase resilience to shocks and sustain inclusive and equitable growth, as well as eradicate poverty, achieve structural transformation and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all.

21. We encourage improvements in agricultural productivity to improve food security, access to goods and services and the development of employment along the agricultural value chain, as well as trade capacity-building in the agricultural sector, so as to raise incomes in both the farm and non-farm sectors in rural areas and to help poor households cope with higher food prices, and reiterate the importance of empowering rural women as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development and food security and nutrition.

22. We reaffirm the important work and inclusive nature of the Committee on World Food Security, including its role in facilitating country-initiated assessments on sustainable food production and food security, and encourage countries to give due consideration to implementing its Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

23. We support the promotion of innovative approaches in the design and implementation of employment policies and programmes for all, including the long-term unemployed.

24. We recognize the importance of providing social protection schemes for the formal and informal economy as instruments for the achievement of equity, inclusion and the stability and cohesion of societies, and emphasize the importance of supporting national efforts aimed at bringing informal workers into the formal economy. We urge Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, to develop systems of social protection and to extend or broaden, as appropriate, their effectiveness and coverage, including for workers in the informal economy, recognizing the need for social protection systems to provide social security and to support labour market participation, and also urge Governments, while taking into account national circumstances, to focus on the needs of those living in or

vulnerable to poverty and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a systemic base from which to address poverty and vulnerability.

25. We emphasize the need for improved regulatory environments and policy initiatives that promote entrepreneurship, stressing the positive role that entrepreneurship plays in driving job creation.

26. We support national regulatory and policy frameworks that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives, taking into account the importance of corporate social responsibility. We call upon the private sector to engage in responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the United Nations Global Compact.

27. We stress the importance of promoting universal access to social protection systems, including by establishing and maintaining, as applicable, nationally determined social protection floors as a fundamental element of national social security systems, in line with International Labour Organization Recommendation 202 on national floors for social protection and bearing in mind International Labour Organization Convention 102 (1952) on Social Security (Minimum Standards) as an important means of assisting those living in or vulnerable to poverty while also helping to stabilize the economy, maintaining and promoting employability and protecting and further consolidating gains towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

28. We reaffirm the importance of promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education, the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health and the access of all to primary health care as part of the effort to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration. We recognize the continued need to address the impact of non-communicable diseases, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other major infectious diseases on social and economic development.

29. We also reaffirm the importance of the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All, reaffirm the commitments to, by 2015, ensure complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality and access to such education and to achieve gender equality in education, and resolve to strengthen policies aimed at ensuring full and equal access to education at all levels through lifelong learning, including adult and long-distance education and training, and at adopting, promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education, in particular for women and girls.

30. We recognize that it is necessary to increase vigilance and to achieve respect for international labour standards, and reaffirm our commitment to promote opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment as well as decent work for all, with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of non-discrimination, equity, equality, security and dignity.

31. We recognize the need to universally respect, promote and realize fundamental principles and rights at work, in accordance with the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

32. We stress the need to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which

adversely affect their economic and social development, including their exclusion from labour markets and to promote their productive capacity, employment and decent work.

33. We also stress the importance of removing obstacles to the social and economic development and promoting the productive capacity, employment, and decent work of people living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies and terrorism

34. We stress the importance of promoting and protecting the rights of women workers, of taking action to remove structural and legal barriers to, as well as eliminating stereotypical attitudes towards, gender equality at work, and initiating positive steps towards the promotion of equal pay for equal work or for work of equal value.

35. We encourage Member States to undertake gender analyses of national labour laws and standards and to establish gender-sensitive policies and guidelines for employment practices, building on multilateral instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization.

36. We recognize the need to improve opportunities for young people to gain access to productive employment and decent work through increased investment in youth employment, active labour market support and public-private partnerships, as well as through the creation of enabling environments to facilitate the participation of young people in labour markets, in accordance with international rules and commitments.

37. We stress the need to address the special challenges of youth employment in countries affected by conflict. In this respect, we urge strong collaboration among all relevant actors to promote and scale up best practices.

38. We further encourage efforts by the international community to promote balanced, coherent and comprehensive approaches to international migration and development, and recognize the important contribution of migrant workers for countries of both origin and destination. We should resist unfair and discriminatory treatment of migrant workers and the imposition of unreasonable restrictions on labour migration in order to maximize the benefits of international migration, while complying with the relevant national legislation and applicable international obligations. We also recognize the need for Member States to continue to consider the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means of maximizing the development benefits and minimizing the negative impacts, including by exploring ways to lower the costs of transferring remittances, garnering the active engagement of expatriates and fostering their involvement in promoting investment in countries of origin and entrepreneurship among non-migrants.

39. We stress the importance of public-private partnerships in a wide range of areas, with the aim of eradicating poverty and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, as appropriate.

40. We emphasize that effective policies should be formulated and implemented through inclusive processes, in particular broad based social dialogue with workers'

and employers' representatives, and attentiveness to the quality of governance and public services.

41. We recognize the need for the mobilization of significant resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing in order to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all, and in this regard:

(a) We recall the resolve of Member States to enhance and strengthen domestic resource mobilization and fiscal space, including, where appropriate, through modernized tax systems, more efficient tax collection, the broadening of the tax base and the effective combating of tax evasion and capital flight;

(b) We recall that the ongoing fight against corruption at all levels is a priority, and reaffirm the need to take urgent and decisive steps to continue to combat corruption in all its manifestations in order to reduce obstacles to effective resource mobilization and allocation and to prevent the diversion of resources away from activities that are vital for development;

(c) We recognize it is important to enhance the development impact of direct investment, including foreign direct investment, including by strengthening the productive sector and contributing to job creation. In order to contribute to development, efforts should be made by all stakeholders to promote foreign direct investment in such a way as to complement the development priorities of host countries. Foreign direct investment requires a stable, predictable and enabling investment climate. National capacities of developing countries should be strengthened in this regard. Investment policies should have a strong focus on sustainable development and inclusive growth;

(d) We reaffirm that international trade is an engine for development and sustained economic growth, and also reaffirm the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development, as they advance towards sustainable development;

(e) We urge the members of the World Trade Organization to redouble their efforts to achieve an ambitious, balanced and development-oriented conclusion to the Doha Development Agenda, while respecting the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and consensual decision-making, with a view to strengthening the multilateral trading system. In order to effectively participate in the work programme of the World Trade Organization and to fully realize trade opportunities, developing countries need the assistance and enhanced cooperation of all relevant stakeholders;

(f) We underline the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 as well as the target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urge developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to developing countries;

(g) We stress the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, and welcome steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability;

(h) We note that the aid architecture has significantly changed in the current decade. New aid providers and novel partnership approaches, which utilize new modalities of cooperation, have contributed to increasing the flow of resources. Furthermore, the interplay of development assistance with private investment, trade and new development actors provides new opportunities for aid to leverage private resource flows;

(i) We consider that innovative mechanisms of financing can make a positive contribution towards assisting developing countries in mobilizing additional resources for financing for development on a voluntary basis and that such financing should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing.

42. We encourage the sharing of experiences and best practices on ways to address the high levels of unemployment and underemployment, in particular among youth;

43. We call for strengthened policy coherence and partnerships across the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions, as appropriate, while recognizing the respective mandates and governance structures of the constituent parts of the system, with a view to promoting the creation of decent work through enhanced policy dialogue, research and analysis, the collection of data, including data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, and the provision of technical assistance, and in this regard we recognize the role of the Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

44. We are concerned about labour market conditions and widespread deficits of available decent work opportunities, especially for young women and men. We urge all Governments to address the global challenge of youth employment by developing and implementing strategies and policies that provide young people everywhere with access to decent and productive work, as over the coming decades, decent jobs will need to be created so as to ensure sustainable and inclusive development and to reduce poverty.

45. We invite and encourage donors, international organizations, including the United Nations system as well as the international financial institutions, the regional development banks, major groups and the private sector to provide all forms of support for the implementation of global strategies on employment.

46. We call upon the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to continue to coordinate in a coherent manner their activities in order to support national Governments, upon their request, to develop and expand social protection floors, in line with International Labour Organization recommendation 202, including through the facilitation and promotion of South-South cooperation.

47. We call upon United Nations agencies and programmes to enhance their efforts to help countries to develop coherent policies that are conducive to employment and entrepreneurship, including macroeconomic policies, and highlight the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing a global forum for the discussion of those issues.

48. We encourage all stakeholders to consider collaborating with the United Nations system to create a youth volunteer programme under the umbrella of the United Nations Volunteers, and support the call by the Secretary-General for stronger partnerships with and for youth, by, inter alia, strengthening the youth focus of programmes on employment.

49. We stress the importance of keeping full and productive employment and decent work for all as a key cross-cutting theme on the agenda of the United Nations.

50. We call upon Member States to consider productive capacity, employment and decent work in the discussions of the post-2015 development agenda.

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Substantive session of 2012
New York, 2-27 July 2012
Agenda item 5
Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Fernando Arias (Spain), on the basis of informal consultations

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and recalling other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming also the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance and the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect those principles,

Recalling its decision to consider the theme "Working in partnership to strengthen coordination of humanitarian assistance in a changing world" at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2012,[1]

Recalling also its decision to convene two panels, on the themes "Improving capacities for evidence-based humanitarian decision-making" and "Partnerships for effective humanitarian assistance in support of national, regional and international efforts";[1] and its decision to hold an informal event on the theme "Humanitarian needs in the Sahel and the importance of building resilience",[2]

Expressing grave concern at the increase in the number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including those associated with natural hazards and complex emergencies, at the increased impact of natural disasters and at the displacement resulting from humanitarian emergencies,

[1] See decision 2012/211.
[2] See decision 2012/212.

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Reiterating the need to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance in a comprehensive and consistent manner,

Expressing its deep concern at the increasing challenges facing Member States and the United Nations humanitarian response capacity posed by the consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, by the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis, and by the global food crisis and continuing food insecurity, and the potential of those challenges to increase the need for resources for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and humanitarian assistance, including in developing countries,

Condemning the increasing number of attacks and other acts of violence against humanitarian personnel, facilities, assets and supplies, and expressing deep concern about the negative implications of such attacks for the provision of humanitarian assistance to affected populations,

Noting with grave concern that violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations in many emergency situations,

Emphasizing that building and strengthening resilience at the national, local and regional levels is critical to reducing the impact of disasters, including by saving lives, reducing suffering, mitigating damage to properties and providing a more predictable and effective delivery of assistance and relief, and in this regard, while recognizing that building resilience is a long-term development process, stressing the need for continued investment in preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response capacity,

Recognizing the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development and that emergency measures should be seen as a step towards sustainable development,

Noting the contribution, as appropriate, of relevant regional and subregional organizations in the provision of humanitarian assistance within their region, upon the request of the affected State,

Recognizing that volunteerism can make an important contribution to community and nationally led efforts in all stages of humanitarian action, and the important role of women, young people, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples in this regard,

Recognizing also the need for the United Nations system and its partners to improve and strengthen coordination and accountability of humanitarian assistance and leadership within the United Nations humanitarian response system in support of national efforts, and taking note of the efforts made by the United Nations and its partners, including through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

[3] A/67/89-E/2012/77.

2. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should continue to enhance existing humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions, including, as appropriate, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries, and encourages the international community to support efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening their capacity to build resilience, mitigate disaster risks, and prepare for and respond to disasters;

3. *Urges* Member States to assess their progress in strengthening preparedness levels for humanitarian response, with a view to increasing efforts to develop, update and strengthen disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels, in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action,[4] in particular priority 5 thereof, taking into account their own circumstances and capacities and in coordination with relevant actors, as appropriate, and encourages the international community and relevant United Nations entities, including the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the United Nations funds and programmes, as well as specialized agencies, to give increased priority to preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities, in particular by supporting national and local efforts in that regard;

4. *Encourages* Member States, as well as relevant regional and international organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to continue to support adaptation to the effects of climate change and to strengthen disaster risk reduction and early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, especially for those countries that are particularly vulnerable;

5. *Encourages* Member States to create and strengthen an enabling environment for the capacity-building of their national and local authorities, national societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in providing timely humanitarian assistance, and also encourages the international community, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and organizations to support national authorities in their capacity-building programmes, including through technical cooperation and long-term partnerships, based on recognition of their important role in providing humanitarian assistance;

6. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken at the regional and national levels in relation to the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance adopted at the thirtieth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 26 to 30 November 2007, and encourages Member States and, where applicable, regional organizations to take further steps to review and strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief, taking into account, as appropriate, those Guidelines, and notes the efforts of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to develop a model act on the subject, which were welcomed at the thirty-first International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 28 November to 1 December 2011;

[4] Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2).

7. *Encourages* efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination of United Nations humanitarian entities, other relevant humanitarian organizations and donor countries with the affected State, with a view to planning and delivering emergency humanitarian assistance in ways that are supportive of early recovery as well as sustainable rehabilitation, reconstruction and development efforts;

8. *Also encourages* efforts to provide education in humanitarian emergencies, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

9. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to lead the efforts to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance, and urges relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and relevant development actors, including civil society, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

10. *Also requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to improve the dialogue with Member States on the relevant processes, activities and deliberations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

11. *Encourages* Member States to improve cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

12. *Encourages* United Nations humanitarian organizations and other relevant organizations, while strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, to continue to work in close coordination with national Governments, taking into account the primary role of the affected State in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of such assistance within its territory;

13. *Welcomes* the continued efforts to strengthen the humanitarian response capacity in order to provide a timely, predictable, coordinated and accountable response to humanitarian needs, and requests the Secretary-General to continue efforts in that regard, in consultation with Member States, including by strengthening support to and improving the identification, selection and training of United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators;

14. *Requests* the United Nations system and other relevant actors to continue to improve and strengthen humanitarian coordination mechanisms, notably at the field level, including the existing cluster coordination mechanism, and by improving partnership and coordination with national and local authorities, including the use of national/local coordination mechanisms, where possible;

15. *Welcomes* the recent efforts by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build partnerships with regional organizations and the private sector, and encourages Member States and the United Nations system to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts, in order to effectively cooperate to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence;

16. *Recognizes* the benefits for the effectiveness of the humanitarian response of the engagement of and coordination with relevant humanitarian actors,

and encourages the United Nations to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations and other participants in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

17. *Expresses concern* at the challenges related to, inter alia, safe access to and use of fuel, firewood, alternative energy, water and sanitation, shelter, food and health-care services in humanitarian emergencies, and takes note with appreciation of initiatives at the national and international levels that promote effective cooperation in that regard;

18. *Requests* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of, and make further progress towards, common humanitarian needs assessments, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by those organizations;

19. *Encourages* Member States to improve data collection and analysis, and facilitate the exchange of information with humanitarian organizations of the United Nations, in order to support preparedness efforts and to improve the effectiveness of needs-based humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations system, as appropriate, and other relevant actors, to continue to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities for data collection and analysis;

20. *Requests* Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations and other relevant actors to ensure that all aspects of humanitarian response address the specific needs of women, girls, men and boys, taking into consideration age and disability, including through improved collection, analysis and reporting of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, taking into account, inter alia, the information provided by States;

21. *Requests* the United Nations to continue to identify solutions to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy appropriately senior, skilled and experienced humanitarian staff quickly and flexibly, giving paramount consideration to the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to gender equality and to recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible, and in this regard, encourages the United Nations Development Group to strengthen the resident coordinator system, on which the humanitarian coordinator system is based, in order to ensure the full implementation of the management and accountability system of the United Nations development and resident coordinator system;

22. *Also requests* the United Nations to continue to develop specialist technical expertise and capacity to fill gaps in critical humanitarian programming and to procure emergency relief material rapidly and cost-effectively, and locally when appropriate, in order to support Governments and United Nations country teams in the coordination and provision of international humanitarian assistance;

23. *Calls upon* the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to enhance accountability to Member States, including affected States, and all other stakeholders, and to further strengthen humanitarian response efforts, including by monitoring and evaluating the provision of their humanitarian assistance, incorporating lessons learned into programming, and consulting with the affected populations so that their needs are appropriately addressed;

24. *Urges* all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance to fully commit to and duly respect the guiding principles contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/182, including the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality as well as the principle of independence, as recognized by the Assembly in its resolution 58/114 of 17 December 2003;

25. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow humanitarian personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

26. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflicts to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law;

27. *Calls upon* all States and parties to comply fully with the provisions of international humanitarian law, including all the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[5] in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,[6] in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories, and in that regard urges the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen humanitarian assistance to civilians in those situations;

28. *Urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, premises, facilities, equipment, vehicles and supplies operating within their borders, and in other territories under their effective control, recognizes the need for appropriate collaboration between humanitarian actors and relevant authorities of the affected State in matters related to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, requests the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to enhance the safety and security of personnel involved in United Nations humanitarian operations, and urges Member States to ensure that perpetrators of crimes committed against humanitarian personnel on their territory or on other territories under their effective control do not operate with impunity and are brought to justice as provided for by national laws and in accordance with obligations under international law;

29. *Encourages* the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian actors, to include as part of their risk management strategy the building of good relations and trust with national and local governments, and to promote acceptance by local communities and all relevant actors, in order to enable humanitarian assistance to be provided in accordance with humanitarian principles;

30. *Emphasizes* the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, reaffirms the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles;

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[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[6] Ibid., No. 973.

31. *Urges* Member States to continue to prevent, investigate and prosecute acts of sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies, calls upon Member States and relevant organizations to strengthen support services for victims of such violence, and calls for a more effective response in that regard;

32. *Notes* the increasing challenges facing Member States, in particular developing countries, and the international humanitarian response system in responding effectively to all humanitarian emergencies, in particular the underfunded and forgotten emergencies; and in that regard stresses the need to enhance existing and build new partnerships, strengthen financing mechanisms, broaden the donor base and engage other partners to ensure adequate resources for the provision of humanitarian assistance;

33. *Encourages* Member States, the private sector, civil society and other relevant entities to make contributions and to consider increasing and diversifying their contributions to humanitarian funding mechanisms, including consolidated and flash appeals, the Central Emergency Response Fund and other funds, based on and in proportion to assessed needs, as a means of ensuring flexible, predictable, timely, needs-based and, where possible, multi-year, non-earmarked and additional resources to meet global humanitarian challenges, encourages donors to adhere to the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship,[7] and reiterates that contributions for humanitarian assistance should be provided in a way that is not to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

34. *Recognizes* that building preparedness is a long-term investment that will contribute to the achievement of humanitarian and development objectives, including a reduction in the need for humanitarian response, and therefore further encourages Member States and other relevant actors to provide effective, predictable, flexible and adequate funding for preparedness activities, and stresses that international preparedness efforts reinforce national and local response capacities and support existing national and local institutions;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution in his next report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

[7] A/58/99-E/2003/94, annex II.

United Nations E/2012/L.12

Economic and Social Council

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Substantive session of 2012
New York, 2-27 July 2012
Agenda item 6 (b)
Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Algeria:*, draft resolution**

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2011/9 of 22 July 2011 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 66/213 of 22 December 2011,

Recalling further the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[2] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Reaffirming also the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2012 on the theme "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011 to 2020;[3]

2. *Recalls* the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and calls for its full and timely implementation, and in this regard, reaffirms the commitment made by the international community to assist the least developed countries to achieve sustainable development, including by fully integrating the priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action into its framework of action and their effective implementation as part of the follow-up and implementation of the outcome of the Conference regarding the least developed countries;

3. *Expresses serious concern* that the ongoing world financial and economic crisis affects the least developed countries in many ways, which are manifested in the sharp decline in the gross domestic product growth rate from 6.6 per cent in the past decade to an estimated 4.9 per cent in 2011, and in this regard, underlines the need for appropriate regional and international support to be deployed in a timely and targeted manner to complement the efforts of the least developed countries aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating their effects;

4. *Recognizes* that building a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in agriculture, manufacturing and services, constructing efficient infrastructure and ensuring access to affordable and reliable technologies are essential if the least developed countries are to increase their resilience to shocks, maintain inclusive and equitable growth, eradicate poverty and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all;

5. *Notes* the efforts made by the least developed countries towards full employment and decent work for all, and expresses its concern that, despite considerable efforts, they are yet to generate a sufficient number of decent jobs for their growing working-age populations, primarily because of limited structural change aimed at high-productivity sectors, and in this regard, calls upon the development partners to provide enhanced financial and technical support to the least developed countries to develop productive capacities, achieve structural transformation and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all;

6. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders, and in this regard, invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including the United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United

[3] A/67/88-E/2012/75.

Nations country teams, to actively support the integration and the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

7. *Calls upon* the development partners to integrate the Istanbul Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

8. *Expresses serious concern* over the fall in the amount of official development assistance to the least developed countries in 2011, and in this regard, calls upon the donor countries to fulfil their commitment of providing 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income to the least developed countries without further delay and to align the allocation of official development assistance to the priorities of the least developed countries with particular focus on developing productive capacity;

9. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to fully and effectively implement the commitments contained in the eight priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action, namely productive capacity, agriculture, food security and rural development, trade, commodities, human and social development, multiple crises and other emerging challenges, mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and good governance at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

10. *Invites* all the organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action including by implementing scaled-up programmes of financial and technical cooperation, to integrate it into their programmes of work, to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, and to include in their annual reports to the executive boards of United Nations system organizations and to the Economic and Social Council the progress made in this regard;

11. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

12. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

13. *Welcomes with appreciation* the decisions taken by the executive boards of various United Nations system organizations to mainstream the relevant provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action into the work of the Secretariat and its intergovernmental machinery, and in this regard invites the governing bodies of all other United Nations funds and programmes and multilateral organizations to do the same in an expeditious manner;

14. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields in order to ensure follow-up of their development in the broader context of the world economy and contribute to preventing their marginalization while promoting their further integration into the world economy;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* to the organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations that recognize the least developed countries as a vulnerable group of countries and invites those that have not yet done so to use the least developed country category in their work programme and to provide scaled-up and targeted support to them, and in this regard, calls upon the development partners to further take on board least developed country identification criteria in allocating their development assistance;

16. *Underlines* the need to give particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

17. *Notes* the work being done by the ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category, and takes note of the report of the working group to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session and its recommendations;[4]

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis on a priority basis by 2013 with the aim of establishing a technology bank and a mechanism to support science, technology and innovation dedicated to the least developed countries, building on existing international initiatives;

19. *Underlines* the need to take the steps necessary to ensure mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering their commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action;

20. *Reaffirms* its decision to include in its annual ministerial review, in 2015, a review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

21. *Reiterates* that the Development Cooperation Forum should take into consideration the Istanbul Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development;

22. *Underlines* that the post-2015 global development agenda should adequately reflect the development priorities of the least developed countries, including those contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and in this regard, calls upon developed countries to review their official development assistance commitments made in the Istanbul Programme of Action with a view to further enhancing the resources for the least developed countries, and invites other developing countries, consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action within the framework of South-South cooperation;

[4] A/67/92.

23. *Invites* the relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies to undertake biennial reviews of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the first of which to be undertaken in 2013, in close coordination with the global-level and country-level follow-up processes and in cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations;

24. *Calls upon* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the Trust Fund in Support of Activities Undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in a timely manner to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, as well as the participation of representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council and in other relevant forums, and in this regard, expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2013, under the sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020", a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

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Economic and Social Council

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Substantive session of 2012
New York, 2-27 July 2012
Item 13 (d)
Economic and environmental questions: human settlements

Algeria*: draft resolution

Human settlements

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its relevant resolutions and decisions on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[1]

Acknowledging the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) towards attaining the goal of sustainable urban development and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled "The future we want",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;[2]

2. *Also takes note* of paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 66/207, in which the Assembly decided to convene in 2016 a third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III);

3. *Further takes note* of the ongoing review of the governance structure of UN-Habitat, which aims to improve its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness;

4. *Recognizes* that, as the progress made in improving the lives of slum dwellers has not been enough to counter the growth of informal settlements in the developing world, the overall reduction in the world's urban divide requires greater effort, since the "absolute number" of slum dwellers has actually increased from 776.7 million in 2000 to some 827.6 million in 2010, and in this regard calls for the

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] E/2012/65.

redoubling of efforts to support national plans to improve the lives of the urban and rural poor across the developing world;

5. *Also recognizes* that urban sprawl adds to the urban divide, pushing social segregation along economic lines that result in spatial differences in wealth and quality of life across various parts of cities and metropolitan areas, run-down inner cities and suburbs, and in this regard reiterates the need for the international donor community and financial institutions to redouble efforts to support a national plan and strategies to improve the lives of the urban and rural poor across the developing world;

6. *Encourages* Governments to support UN-Habitat's work and existing cooperation, within its mandate and in line with its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013, on issues related to cities and climate change, including its complementary role in matters related to climate change within the United Nations system, in particular in addressing the vulnerability of cities to climate change, including through further normative work and expansion of its technical assistance to towns and cities on local action for the mitigation of urban-based greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change, with a focus on vulnerable urban populations, slum dwellers, the urban poor and at-risk populations;

7. *Encourages* Governments, according to their circumstances and capacities, to promote sustainable criteria in planning and construction while taking into account access to clean water and safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, urban and rural services, sustainable waste management and sustainable transport;

8. *Invites* Governments to promote participation and access of people, in particular the poor, to policies, programmes and projects related to access to basic services, including in housing, as a way to address the needs of rural and urban areas;

9. *Welcomes* the contributions of regional initiatives to mobilize public investment for slum upgrading, shelter and basic services and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, and invites the international community to support such efforts;

10. *Encourages* the inclusion at the national and regional levels of the preparations for Habitat III, established, broad-based networks such as the Associations of Ministers of Housing and Urban Development for Africa, Asia and Latin America, national Habitat committees, Associations of Cities and Local Authorities, Habitat professional forums and civil society organizations;

11. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 66/207, which recognized the continuing need for adequate and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation so as to ensure timely, effective and concrete global implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and invites the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to revise adequately the resources allocated by the regular budget for UN-Habitat, in order to strengthen its capacity to better implement its mandate;

13. *Invites* Governments to promote sustainable urbanization and the role of local authorities in their national development policies and programmes, and to consider including sustainable cities and human settlements in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, including effective and inclusive urban governance, integrated urban planning and design, job creation policies and equitable access to basic services;

14. *Decides* to transmit to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-seventh session the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration at its substantive session of 2013 a report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

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Economic and Social Council

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Substantive session of 2012
New York, 2-27 July 2012
Agenda item 12
Non-governmental organizations

Egypt: draft decision

Quadrennial report of the non-governmental organization Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement

The Economic and Social Council decides to request the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to resume its consideration of the quadrennial report for 2007-2010 of the non-governmental organization "Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement" at its regular session of 2013, and further requests the Committee to defer its consideration of the request for the change of name of that organization from "Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement" to "End Human Trafficking Now" until its regular session of 2013.

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United Nations E/2012/L.15

Economic and Social Council

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New York, 2-27 July 2012
Agenda item 12
Non-governmental organizations

El Salvador, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic,* Malaysia,* Myanmar,* Philippines, Singapore,* Thailand* and Viet Nam:* draft decision

Application of the non-governmental organization Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council decides not to grant special consultative status to the non-governmental organization Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation.

* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

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Economic and Social Council

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New York, 2-27 July 2012
Item 7 (e)
Coordination, programme and other questions: long-term programme of support for Haiti

Canada: draft resolution

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2004/52 of 23 July 2004, 2005/46 of 27 July 2005, 2006/10 of 26 July 2006, 2007/13 of 25 July 2007, 2008/10 of 23 July 2008, 2009/4 of 23 July 2009 and 2010/28 of 23 July 2010 and its decisions 2004/322 of 11 November 2004, 2009/211 of 20 April 2009, 2009/267 of 15 December 2009, 2011/207 of 17 February 2011, 2011/211 of 26 April 2011 and 2011/268 of 28 July 2011,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti[1] and the recommendations therein;

2. *Takes note* of the political, economic and rule of law progress made since the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010, and welcomes the support provided by the international community to this process;

3. *Commends* the ongoing implementation of the strategic development plan for Haiti by the Haitian authorities, and looks forward to continued support from donors and other partners, including the United Nations system and the international financial institutions, in connection with the implementation of the plan;

4. *Recognizes* the need for effective and continued coordination between the Government of Haiti and donors, as well as for a standing consultation mechanism with the main non-governmental organizations active in Haiti;

5. *Calls upon* donors to fulfil their pledges made at the International Donors' Conference, "Towards a New Future for Haiti", held in New York on 31 March 2010 and to respond to the call to fund the consolidated humanitarian appeal for 2012 as well as the activities of the World Food Programme in Haiti;

[1] E/2012/87.

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6. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until its substantive session of 2013, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on Haiti's long-term development strategy to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities, building on the strategic development plan for Haiti and stresses the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms;

7. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, and requests him to continue to support the Group's activities adequately and within existing resources;

8. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, in accomplishing its mandate, to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and his Special Representative in Haiti, the Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti, the United Nations Development Group, relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and institutions including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community, the Inter-American Development Bank and other major stakeholders;

9. *Also requests* the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration at its substantive session of 2013.

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New York, 2-27 July 2012
Item 14 (i)
Social and human rights questions: genetic privacy and non-discrimination

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis-Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations

Genetic privacy and non-discrimination

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 2010/259 of 23 July 2010, in which it invited the United Nations Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics to further its work in this field,

Recalling also its decision 2011/242 of 26 July 2011, in which it took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on genetic privacy and non-discrimination,[1]

1. *Recognizes* the diversity of existing initiatives undertaken by various organizations within and outside the United Nations system geared to safeguarding human rights from the potential misuse of genetic information for discriminatory purposes;

2. *Invites* the Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics to continue to address regularly the issue of genetic privacy and non-discrimination in order to identify areas calling for concerted or joint efforts, as well as major gaps and constraints that need to be addressed for enhanced cooperation in the field;

3. *Decides* to close the sub-item entitled "Genetic privacy and non-discrimination".

[1] E/2011/108.

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Please recycle

United Nations E/2012/L.18

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
20 July 2012

Original: English

Substantive session of 2012
New York, 2-27 July 2012
Item 7 (g)
Coordination, programme and other questions:
Tobacco or health

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations

United Nations system-wide coherence on tobacco control

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control,[1] emphasizing the need to further strengthen multisectoral and inter-agency responses for the full implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control[2] as appropriate,

Recognizing the adverse impact of tobacco use on public health, as well as its social, economic and environmental consequences, including for efforts towards poverty eradication,

Considering the impact of non-communicable diseases related to tobacco use as a global epidemic, and recognizing that substantially reducing tobacco consumption is an important contribution to reducing non-communicable diseases and can have considerable health benefits for individuals and countries,

Acknowledging that the work of the Task Force should be consistent with system-wide coherence approaches to ensure that the United Nations system is able to deliver in a strategic and coordinated manner at the country level in support of the implementation of the Framework Convention, where appropriate, in alignment with national priorities,

Recalling the obligation of Member States parties to the Framework Convention to set up comprehensive, multisectoral national control strategies, plans and programmes, with support from the Framework Convention secretariat, upon request,

Welcoming the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, adopted on 19 September 2011,[3] and recalling the first Global Ministerial Conference on

[1] E/2012/70.
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2302, No. 41032.
[3] General Assembly resolution 66/2, annex.

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Healthy Lifestyles and Non-communicable Disease Control, organized by the Russian Federation and the World Health Organization in Moscow on 28 and 29 April 2011,

Welcoming the joint letter sent by the Director General of the World Health Organization and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to United Nations country teams in March 2012 to support country-level work on non-communicable diseases in a coordinated manner,

Recognizing the leading role of the World Health Organization as the primary specialized agency for health, including its roles and functions with regard to health policy within its mandate, in particular through its important work within the context of tobacco control and in the spirit on the "whole-of-WHO" working approach, and reaffirming its leadership and coordination role in promoting and monitoring global action against non-communicable diseases in relation to the work of other relevant United Nations agencies, development banks and other regional and international organizations in addressing non-communicable diseases in a coordinated manner,

Recognizing the fundamental conflict of interest between the tobacco industry and public health, including in the work of the United Nations,

1. *Encourages* the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force to promote effective tobacco control policies and assistance mechanisms at the national level, including through the integration of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control[2] implementation efforts within the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, where appropriate, in order to promote coordinated and complementary work among funds, programmes and specialized agencies;

2. *Invites* all members of the Task Force and other United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to contribute, as appropriate, to the goals of the Framework Convention, including through multisectoral assistance, public outreach and communication, in particular in the context of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization, to further integrate the aims of the Convention within the activities undertaken in the context of the implementation of the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases,[3] in view of the fact that tobacco is itself one of the main risk factors for the most prominent non-communicable diseases, while also being associated with other risk factors;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Director General of the World Health Organization, to convene annual meetings of the Task Force;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Council at its substantive session of 2013 options to effectively monitor the work of the Task Force and the integration of the Framework Convention implementation efforts within the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, where appropriate, in order to promote coordinated and complementary work among funds, programmes and specialized agencies.

United Nations E/2012/L.19

Economic and Social Council

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Substantive session of 2012
New York, 2-27 July 2012
Item 13 (h)
Economic and environmental questions: international cooperation in tax matters

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis-Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations

Dates and draft agenda for the eighth session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Decides that the eighth session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters will be held in Geneva from 15 to 19 October 2012;

(b) Approves the following draft agenda for the eighth session of the Committee:

1. Opening of the session by the Chair of the Committee.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Discussion of substantive issues related to international cooperation in tax matters:
   - (a) United Nations Model Tax Convention update (status of the 2011 agreed update, publication, etc.);
   - (b) Transfer pricing: practical manual for developing countries;
   - (c) Tax treatment of services;
   - (d) Revision of the Manual for the Negotiation of Bilateral Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries;
   - (e) Article 13: capital gains;
   - (f) The United Nations Model Convention and climate change mechanisms;
   - (g) Exchange of information;

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(h) Dispute resolution: proposed mutual agreement procedure guide;

(i) Capacity-building;

(j) Taxation and use of mobile technology;

(k) Taxation of development projects update;

(l) Classification of hybrid entities;

(m) Article 5: the meaning of "connected projects";

(n) Permanent establishment issues in international value added tax cases;

(o) Article 8: transportation issues;

(p) Foreign direct investment issues and corporate taxation.

4. Dates and agenda for the ninth session of the Committee.

5. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its eighth session.

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New York, 2-27 July 2012
Item 13 (h)
Economic and environmental questions: international cooperation in tax matters

Algeria:* draft resolution

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2004/69 of 11 November 2004 and 2011/23 of 27 July 2011,

Recognizing the call made in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[1] to strengthen international tax cooperation through enhanced dialogue among national tax authorities and greater coordination of the work of the concerned multilateral bodies and relevant regional organizations, giving special attention to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,[2]

Recalling the request to the Economic and Social Council, made in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development[3] and the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,[4] to examine the strengthening of the institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters, including the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters,[5]

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., para. 64.

[3] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

[4] General Assembly resolution 63/303, annex.

[5] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex, para. 16, and Assembly resolution 63/303, annex, para. 56 (c).

Please recycle

Recognizing that, while each country is responsible for its tax system, it is important to support efforts in these areas by strengthening technical assistance and enhancing international cooperation and participation in addressing international tax matters, including in the area of double taxation,

Recognizing also the need for an inclusive, participatory and broad-based dialogue on international cooperation in tax matters,

Noting the activities developing within the concerned multilateral bodies and relevant subregional and regional organizations, and recognizing the need to promote collaboration between the United Nations and other international bodies dealing with cooperation in tax matters,

Welcoming the discussion in the Economic and Social Council on 15 March 2012 on international cooperation in tax matters,

Taking note of the report of the Committee on its seventh session,[6]

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to implement the mandate given to it in Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/69, and encourages the Committee to continue its efforts in this regard;

2. *Takes note* of the 2011 revised version of the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries, notes the publication of the English-language version, and endorses the recommendation of the Committee[7] that:

(a) The Convention continue to be made freely available in downloadable form from the website of the Financing for Development Office of the Secretariat;

(b) Translation into the other official languages of the United Nations and publication in those languages take place as soon as possible after the publication of the English version;

3. *Takes note also* of the recommendation of the Committee that the Council, in adopting any resolution or decision addressing the update of the Convention, seek country positions on the Convention from Member States in order to make clearer which countries adopted certain interpretations, especially when the commentaries noted differing interpretations of the same provision,[7] and requests the Secretariat to seek such country positions from Member States on a voluntary basis and to make them publicly available;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the role and work of the Committee,[8] and acknowledges the need for enhanced dialogue among national tax authorities on issues related to international cooperation in tax matters;

5. *Recognizes* the need for continued consultations to explore options with regard to the strengthening of institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters, including on the issue of the conversion of the

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[6] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*, 2011, Supplement No. 25 (E/2011/45).

[7] Ibid., para. 84.

[8] E/2012/8.

Committee into an intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council;

6. *Emphasizes* that it is important for the Committee to enhance its collaboration with other international organizations active in the area of international tax cooperation, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council on the progress achieved in strengthening the work of the Committee and its cooperation with concerned multilateral bodies and relevant regional and subregional organizations;

8. *Decides* to hold a one-day meeting during the first half of 2013 to consider international cooperation in tax matters, including institutional arrangements to promote such cooperation;

9. *Encourages* the President of the Economic and Social Council to issue invitations to representatives of national tax authorities to attend the meeting;

10. *Recognizes* the work of the Financing for Development Office in developing, within its mandate, a capacity development programme in international tax cooperation aimed at strengthening the capacity of the ministries of finance and the national tax authorities in developing countries to develop more effective and efficient tax systems, which support the desired levels of public and private investment, and to combat tax evasion, and requests the Office, in partnership with other stakeholders, to continue its work in this area;

11. *Stresses* the need for appropriate funding for the subsidiary bodies of the Committee to enable those bodies to fulfil their mandates;

12. *Reiterates its appeal* to Member States, relevant organizations and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund for International Cooperation in Tax Matters established by the Secretary-General in order to supplement regular budgetary resources, and invites the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to that end.

United Nations E/2012/L.21

Economic and Social Council

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New York, 2-27 July 2012
Agenda item 11
Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

Algeria*, and Turkey: draft resolution**

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/225 of 22 December 2011,

Recalling also its resolution 2011/41 of 28 July 2011,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 252 (1968) of 21 May 1968, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling the resolutions of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, including ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, ES-10/14 of 8 December 2003, ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[1] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

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Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[3] and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Stressing the importance of the revival and acceleration of serious and credible negotiations within the Middle East peace process on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003, 1544 (2004) of 19 May 2004 and 1850 (2008) of 16 December 2008, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[4] and the Quartet road map,[5] as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources, and expressing concern in that regard about the exploitation of natural resources by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Convinced that the Israeli occupation has gravely impeded the efforts to achieve sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and expressing grave concern about the consequent deterioration of economic and living conditions,

Commending, in that regard, the efforts of the Palestinian Authority to improve the economic and social situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the areas of governance, the rule of law and human rights, livelihoods and productive sectors, education and culture, health, social protection, infrastructure and water,

Gravely concerned, in that regard, about the accelerated construction of settlements and implementation of other related measures by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions,

Expressing deep concern about the rising incidence of violence, harassment, provocation, vandalism and incitement by illegal armed Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including historic and religious sites, and agricultural lands,

Gravely concerned by the serious repercussions on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people caused by Israel's construction of the wall and its associated regime inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and the resulting violation of their economic and social

[2] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[4] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

[5] S/2003/529, annex.

rights, including the right to work, to health, to education, to property, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom of access and movement,

Recalling, in that regard, the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*,[6] and General Assembly resolution ES-10/15, and stressing the need to comply with the obligations mentioned therein,

Expressing grave concern at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of properties, including the increased demolition of homes, economic institutions, historical landmarks, agricultural lands and orchards, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular in connection with its construction of the wall, contrary to international law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern also over the continuing and intensifying policy of home demolitions, evictions and revocation of residency rights, which have caused the further displacement of the Palestinian population in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as measures to further isolate the city from its natural Palestinian environs, including through the accelerated construction of settlements, the construction of the wall, the confiscation of land and the continued imposition of checkpoints, which have seriously exacerbated the already critical socioeconomic situation being faced by the Palestinian population,

Expressing grave concern further about Israeli military operations and the continuing Israeli policy of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian personnel and food, medical, fuel, construction materials and other essential supplies, via the imposition of crossing closures, checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the consequent negative impact on the socioeconomic situation of the Palestinian people, in particular the Palestinian refugee population, which remains that of a humanitarian crisis,

Taking note of recent developments regarding the situation of access to the Gaza Strip, although grave hardships continue to prevail as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, and calling in that regard for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) of 8 January 2009 with a view to ensuring the full opening of the border crossings for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian aid, commercial flows and construction materials, and emphasizing the need for security for all civilian populations,

Deploring the heavy casualties among civilians, including hundreds of children and women, the internal displacement of thousands of civilians and widespread damage to homes, vital civilian infrastructure, hospitals, schools, food supply installations, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, and several United Nations facilities in the Gaza Strip, which have a grave impact on the provision of vital health and social services to Palestinian women and their families and on their socioeconomic living conditions, all caused by the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009,

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[6] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1; see also *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports* 2004, p. 136.

Recalling, in that regard, the relevant United Nations reports, including those of the Economic and Social Council, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the rHuman Rights Council,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the hampering of the reconstruction process, by Israel, the occupying Power, on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, and calling in that regard for the immediate acceleration of the reconstruction process in the Gaza Strip with the assistance of the donor countries, including the disbursement of funds pledged at the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in March 2009,

Gravely concerned about various reports of the United Nations and specialized agencies regarding the substantial aid dependency caused by prolonged border closures, inordinate rates of unemployment, widespread poverty and severe humanitarian hardships, including food insecurity and rising health-related problems, including high levels of malnutrition, among the Palestinian people, especially children, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern at the deaths and injuries caused to civilians, including children, women and peaceful demonstrators, and emphasizing that the Palestinian civilian population must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, and calling for the cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, and all firing of rockets,

Expressing deep concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, excessive use of administrative detention, lack of proper medical care and denial of family visits and of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also about any ill-treatment and harassment of Palestinian prisoners and all reports of torture, while taking note of the recent agreement reached on conditions of detention in Israeli prisons and calling for its full and immediate implementation,

Conscious of the urgent need for the reconstruction and development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the urgent need to address the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people, including by ensuring the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance and the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Authority, with international support, to rebuild, reform and strengthen its damaged institutions and promote good governance, emphasizing the need to preserve the Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure and commending, in that regard, the implementation of the 2009 plan of the Palestinian Authority entitled "Palestine: Ending the Occupation, Establishing the State" for building the institutions of an independent Palestinian State within a twenty-four month period and the significant achievements that have been brought about, as confirmed by international institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the

United Nations in their reports to the meeting on 13 April 2011 of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, and acknowledging the development plan of the Palestinian Authority for the period 2011-2013,

Commending, in that regard, the important work being done by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the donor community in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people in line with their national development and State-building plan completed at the end of August 2011, as well as the assistance being provided in the humanitarian field,

Stressing the importance of national unity among the Palestinian people and emphasizing the need for the respect and preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Calling upon both parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map in cooperation with the Quartet,

1. *Calls* for the full opening of the border crossings of the Gaza Strip, in line with Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), to ensure humanitarian access as well as the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods and the lifting of all movement restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people, including those restrictions arising from ongoing Israeli military operations and the multilayered closures system, and for other urgent measures to be taken to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is critical in the Gaza Strip, and calls for compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with all of its legal obligations under international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions in that regard;

2. *Stresses* the need to preserve the territorial contiguity, unity and integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as to and from the outside world;

3. *Also stresses* the need to preserve and develop Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, including economic and social rights;

4. *Demands* that Israel comply with the Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed in Paris on 29 April 1994;[7]

5. *Calls upon* Israel to restore and replace civilian properties, vital infrastructure, agricultural lands and governmental institutions that have been damaged or destroyed as a result of its military operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

6. *Reiterates the call* for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005, particularly the urgent and uninterrupted reopening of all crossings into the Gaza Strip, which is crucial to ensuring the passage of foodstuffs and essential supplies, including construction

[7] See A/49/180-S/1994/727, annex, entitled "Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area", annex IV.

materials and adequate fuel supplies, as well as to ensuring the unhindered access of the United Nations and related agencies and regular commercial flows necessary for economic recovery to and within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and emphasizes the need for security for all civilian populations;

7. *Calls upon* all parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law, and to refrain from violence against the civilian population, in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

8. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of those resources;

9. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its destruction of homes and properties, economic institutions and agricultural lands and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan;

10. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to end immediately its exploitation of natural resources, including water and mining resources, and to cease the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely, the water, land and energy resources, and present a serious environmental hazard and health threat to the civilian populations, and also calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to remove all obstacles that obstruct implementation of critical environmental projects, including the sewage treatment plants in the Gaza Strip;

11. *Reaffirms* that the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and constitute a major obstacle to economic and social development and to the achievement of peace, and calls for the full cessation of all settlement and settlement-related activity, including full cessation of all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status and character of the occupied territories, including in particular in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions and international law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

12. *Also reaffirms* that Israel's ongoing construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, is contrary to international law and is isolating East Jerusalem, fragmenting the West Bank and seriously debilitating the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, and calls in that regard for full compliance with the legal obligations mentioned in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and in General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 and subsequent relevant resolutions;

13. *Calls upon* Israel to comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and to facilitate visits of the Syrian citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan whose family members reside in their mother homeland, the Syrian Arab Republic, via the Qunaitra entrance;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work of United Nations organizations and agencies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority;

15. *Reiterates* the importance of the revival and accelerated advancement of negotiations of the peace process on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), 1544 (2004) and 1850 (2008), and the Madrid Conference, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, in order to pave the way for the realization of the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders, and the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

17. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan" in the agenda of its substantive session of 2013.

United Nations E/2012/L.22

Economic and Social Council

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Substantive session of 2012
New York, 2-17 July 2012
Agenda item 9
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Algeria,* Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of),* Congo,* Côte d'Ivoire,* Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji,* Madagascar,* Nicaragua, Saint Lucia,* Saint Vincent and the Grenadines,* Sierra Leone,* Syrian Arab Republic,* Timor-Leste* and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): draft resolution

Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[2]

Having heard the statement by the representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[3]

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, the resolutions of the Special Committee and other relevant resolutions and decisions, including, in particular, Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/40 of 28 July 2011,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries

* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] A/67/64.

[2] E/2012/47.

[3] See E/2012/SR.____.

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and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV),

Welcoming the current participation, in their capacity as observers, of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of the regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, they face special challenges in planning for and implementing sustainable development, and that they will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all the major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in that regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/84 of 9 December 2011, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council[2] and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so that they may take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit those proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

11. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review, at the regular meetings of their governing bodies, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. *Recalls* the preparation by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, of an informational leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and its updated online version, and requests that they be disseminated as widely as possible;

13. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining a close liaison between the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

14. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

15. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that they may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

16. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

17. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee to the present resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council;

18. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on 16 May 1998 of its resolution 574 (XXVII),[4] in which the Commission called for the mechanisms necessary for its associate members,

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21* (E/1998/41), chap. III, sect. G.

including the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in the special sessions of the Assembly convened to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories had originally participated in their capacity as observers, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies;

19. *Requests* the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact on those matters with the Chair of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 2013;

21. *Decides* to keep the above questions under continuous review.

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Economic and Social Council

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24 July 2012

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Substantive session 2012
New York, 2-27 July 2012
Item 13 (g)
Economic and environmental questions: public administration and development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis-Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration at its eleventh session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2002/40 of 19 December 2002, 2003/60 of 25 July 2003, 2005/3 of 31 March 2005, 2005/55 of 21 October 2005, 2006/47 of 28 July 2006, 2007/38 of 4 October 2007, 2008/32 of 25 July 2008, 2009/18 of 29 July 2009, 2011/2 of 26 April 2011 and 2011/22 of 27 July 2011, all on public administration and development,

Referring to General Assembly resolutions 50/225 of 19 April 1996, 56/213 of 21 December 2001, 57/277 of 20 December 2002, 58/231 of 23 December 2003, 59/55 of 2 December 2004 and 60/34 of 30 November 2005, all on public administration and development; and resolutions 63/202 of 19 December 2008, 64/187 of 4 December 2009, 65/141 of 20 December 2010 and 66/184 of 22 December 2011, all on information and communication technologies for development,

Recognizing the work of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in providing policy advice and programmatic guidance to the Economic and Social Council on issues related to governance and public administration in development,

Taking note of the support being provided by the United Nations Programme on Public Administration and Finance to countries on institutional and human resource capacity development, electronic and mobile government, and citizens' engagement in managing development programmes,

Underscoring the centrality of transparent, accountable, inclusive, efficient, effective and equitable public administration in the process of development,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its eleventh

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session[1] on local public governance and administration for results, particularly the special emphasis on the role of citizens' engagement, human capital development, including training and education of public servants, and fair allocation of resources in strengthening governance at all levels, particularly the local level;

2. *Reaffirms* that "good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger",[2] and encourages Member States to continue to support capacity development in public governance and institution-building at all levels, with a view to accelerating progress towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Invites* the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, in the framework of the preparations for its twelfth session, to study the effect of specific practices in responsive and inclusive public governance on development, bearing in mind the need to promote high standards of public sector integrity, transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, at national and local levels, promote equal access to public services and provide opportunities for all people to participate in the conduct of public affairs, and requests the Committee to convey the outcome of the study to the Council through its twelfth report in April 2013 with a view to assisting the process of preparing for deliberations on a post-2015 development agenda;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue:

(a) To increase the scope and depth of its online and offline capacity development training and to further develop its Public Administration Country Studies, which contain country statistical data and analytical and case studies, with the aim of better assisting countries in redefining, reforming, strengthening and innovating their public administrations in general, and public service delivery in particular, according to their needs;

(b) To give due recognition to innovative public sector initiatives by Member States through the promotion and the strengthening of the United Nations Public Service Day and the United Nations Public Service Awards;

(c) To support the development of the United Nations Public Administration Network for partnership-building, knowledge dissemination and the exchange of best practices and lessons learned in the area of public administration;

(d) To assist the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society on issues related to electronic and mobile government;

5. *Invites* Member States and other institutional donors to consider contributing to the relevant trust funds of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, for extending its capacity-building programmes and outreach activities, as appropriate.

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[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 24* (E/2012/44).

[2] General Assembly resolution 65/1, para. 11; other clauses related to citizens' engagement can be found in paras. 23 (a), 23 (c) and 23 (g) of the same resolution.

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Economic and Social Council

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New York, 2-27 July 2012
Agenda item 14 (g)
Social and human rights questions: human rights

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis-Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2010/37 of 14 December 2010,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 66/254 of 23 February 2012,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions,[1] and the request contained therein for additional meeting time,

Concerned at the persistent backlog of reports of State parties awaiting consideration, which prevent the Committee from fully discharging its responsibilities under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[2] and Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985 in an efficient and timely manner,

Welcoming the efforts made by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to improve the efficiency of its working methods, in particular its decision to consider, on a temporary basis, periodic reports over two meetings, with a view to increasing the number of reports of State parties considered by the Committee in order to reduce the current backlog, and encouraging sustained efforts by the Committee in this regard,

1. *Decides* to approve as a temporary measure, and without prejudice to the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, the extension of the second annual session of 2013 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by one week and the first annual session of 2014 by one week, for a total of two extra weeks of meeting time, to be used for the consideration of reports

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 2* (E/2012/22).
[2] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

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of State parties, with a view to reducing the backlog, and also decides to approve the participation of up to 10 members of the Committee in both pre-sessional working group meetings in 2013, in order to prepare for the consideration of extra reports;

2. *Requests* the Committee to continue to improve the efficiency of its working methods and to include in its reports to the Council information on the impact of the measures adopted by the Committee to address the backlog in the consideration of reports of State parties.

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Economic and Social Council

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25 July 2012

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Substantive session of 2012
New York, 2-27 July 2012
Agenda item 13 (a)
Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis-Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourteenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004, on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and 66/213 of 22 December 2011, pursuant to which an ad hoc working group of the General Assembly to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category was established,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, by which the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

Recalling further its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007, 2009/35 of 31 July 2009 and 2011/20 of 27 July 2011,

Noting the work of the ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category,

Recalling its resolutions 2009/17 of 29 July 2009, 2010/34 of 23 July 2010, and 2011/44 of 5 December 2011 on the review of United Nations support for small islands developing States,

Noting the importance of adequate financing to address the challenges created by the adverse impacts of climate change on extremely vulnerable countries graduating from the least developed country category,

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Reiterating its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its positive development disrupted or reversed, and that it should be able to continue and sustain its progress and development,

Recalling that by its resolution 59/209 the General Assembly decided that graduation from the list of least developed countries becomes effective three years after the date when the Assembly takes note of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy, and that during the three-year period, the country remains on the list and maintains the advantages associated with membership on the list,

Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the list of least developed countries, while giving due consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered to graduate from the least developed country category,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourteenth session;[1]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the work done by the Committee on promoting productive capacity and employment in a globally responsible environment, in accordance with the theme of the annual ministerial review of the Council in 2012, on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, on the triennial review in 2012 of the list of least developed countries and on strengthening the process of smooth transition from the least developed country category;

3. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that South Sudan be added to the list of least developed countries, subject to the concurrence of the Government of South Sudan, and invites the General Assembly to take note of this recommendation;

4. *Also endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that Vanuatu be graduated from the list of least developed countries, and recommends that the General Assembly take note of this recommendation;

5. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Committee to graduate Tuvalu from the list of least developed countries, and decides to consider this issue at its next substantive session, allowing the Council an opportunity for full consideration of the particular challenges Tuvalu faces;

6. *Recalls* its endorsement made in 2009, and reiterated in subsequent sessions, of the recommendation of the Committee that Equatorial Guinea be graduated from the list of least developed countries, and urges the General Assembly to take note of that recommendation;

7. *Stresses* that inaction by the General Assembly with regard to the recommendations to graduate eligible countries is prejudicial to the credibility of the least developed country category, and in that regard urges the Assembly to take note of the actions by the Council on the recommendation of the Committee related

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 13* (E/2012/33).

to inclusion on and graduation from the list of least developed countries at its first session following the decisions of the Council;

8. *Reaffirms* that smooth transition is vital to ensuring that graduating countries are eased onto a sustainable development path without any disruption, and emphasizes that a successful transition needs to be based, for each graduating country, on its own national strategy for a smooth transition, developed under national leadership with the support of the international community, as appropriate, presenting a comprehensive and coherent set of specific, predictable and transformative measures selected in accordance with the priorities of the country, while taking into account its own specific challenges, vulnerabilities and strengths;

9. *Acknowledges* with appreciation the contributions made by the Committee to the ad hoc working group of the General Assembly to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process;

10. *Requests* the Committee, at its fifteenth session, to examine and make recommendations on the theme chosen by the Council for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2013;

11. *Also requests* the Committee to monitor the progress in the development of countries graduating from the list of least developed countries and to include its findings in its annual report to the Council;

12. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the increased frequency of interactions between the Council and the Committee, and encourages the Chair of the Committee and, as necessary, other Committee members to continue this practice, as specified in Council resolution 2011/20, within existing resources and as appropriate.

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Economic and Social Council

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New York, 2-27 July 2012
Agenda item 6 (a)
Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis-Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations

Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit and its Outcome,[1]

Recalling further the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[2]

Recalling the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document of 2010,[3]

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, and looking forward to its endorsement by the General Assembly,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 66/191 of 22 December 2011, on the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, and resolution 65/146 of 20 December 2010 on innovative mechanisms of financing for development, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/30 of 31 July 2009, on a strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out the financing for development follow-up, and resolution 2011/38 of 28 July 2011, on the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for

[1] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.
[2] Resolution 63/303, annex.
[3] See General Assembly resolution 65/1.

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Development, and recalling the 2008 Review Conference and all other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/285 of 29 June 2011 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the summary by the President of the General Assembly of the fifth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development held in New York on 7 and 8 December 2011,[4]

Taking note also of the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in New York on 12 and 13 March 2012,[5]

Taking note further of the note by the Secretary-General on coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for development,[6]

Reaffirming the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[7] in its entirety, its integrity and its holistic approach, recalling the resolve to take concrete action to implement the Monterrey Consensus and address the challenges of financing for development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming also that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized for the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership strategies and sovereignty,

Deeply concerned about the ongoing adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on development, including on the capacity of developing countries to mobilize resources for development, recognizing that, while global growth is returning, there is a need to sustain the recovery, which is fragile and uneven, and acknowledging that an effective response to the impacts of the crisis requires timely implementation of all development commitments, including existing aid commitments,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of staying fully engaged, nationally, regionally and internationally, in ensuring proper and effective follow-up to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[7] as reaffirmed in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,[8] and of continuing unremitting efforts to build bridges between all

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[4] A/66/678.

[5] A/67/81-E/2012/62.

[6] E/2012/7.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

relevant stakeholders within the holistic agenda of the financing for development process;

2. *Reiterates* the role played by the United Nations as a focal point for the financing for development follow-up process and the need to maintain that role to ensure the continuity and dynamism of the process, while reaffirming the need to further intensify the engagement of all stakeholders, including the United Nations system, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, in the follow-up and implementation of the commitments made at Monterrey and Doha;

3. *Also reiterates* that the Economic and Social Council should continue to strengthen its role in promoting coherence, coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration and as a forum for multi-stakeholder involvement;

4. *Recalls* paragraphs 255, 256 and 257 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and in this regard stresses the need to reinforce coherence and coordination and to avoid duplication of efforts with regard to the financing for development follow-up process;

5. *Emphasizes* that the financing for development follow-up process should constitute a continuum of events, each contributing to and feeding into the next, ensuring the holistic nature of the process and making better and more effective use of existing mechanisms and resources;

6. *Welcomes* the substantive discussions undertaken during the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on financing for development and the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and emphasizes that those discussions are an integral and mutually reinforcing part of the financing for development follow-up process;

7. *Stresses* the need to further improve the dialogue between Member States and representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development during the special high-level meeting of the Council, as part of a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue;

8. *Welcomes* the increased interaction and coordination at the staff level with the institutions involved prior to the high-level meeting of the Council;

9. *Recognizes* the efforts of the President of the Council, in consultation with Member States, to continue to work with the appropriate representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to improve the agenda and the format of the high-level meeting of the Council, considering innovative approaches that are conducive, inter alia, to the high-level participation of those institutions;

10. *Requests* the President of the Council, in close consultation with Member States, to continue close cooperation and dialogue with the relevant organizations and stakeholders on all the elements of the preparations for the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in particular the date and agenda of the meeting of the following year, in order to seek a more interactive, dynamic and substantive discussion on key issues related to the financing for development framework;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken to give more prominence to the consideration of the agenda item on financing for development during the annual substantive session of the Council, including the allocation of the item to its coordination segment;

12. *Stresses* its resolve to continue improving those modalities in accordance with its resolutions 2009/30 and 2010/26;

13. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to consider organizing seminars, panel discussions and briefings as part of the preparations for and contribution to the above-mentioned events in order to raise visibility, attract interest and participation and promote substantive discussions on a continuing basis;

14. *Notes* the ongoing discussions on innovative mechanisms of financing for development, including those undertaken during the special event held during the coordination segment of the substantive session of 2012 of the Council, while reiterating that such voluntary mechanisms should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing;

15. *Reiterates* the importance of further improving cooperation between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, based on a clear understanding and respect for their respective mandates and governance structures;

16. *Welcomes*, in that regard, the invitation by the Bretton Woods institutions to the President of the Council to participate in the meeting of the Development Committee of the Bretton Woods institutions, and notes that the participation of the President of the Council in meetings of the intergovernmental bodies of the international organizations, as appropriate, can contribute to the financing for development follow-up process;

17. *Encourages* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, especially the Financing for Development Office, to maintain regular interaction at the staff level with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the interest of greater coherence, coordination and cooperation, each acting in accordance with its respective intergovernmental mandates;

18. *Acknowledges* the efforts undertaken to date to strengthen the financing for development follow-up process, and underscores the fact that the modalities of the process should be reviewed, as appropriate, in accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 65/145;

19. *Recalls* the decision of the General Assembly to consider the need to hold a follow-up financing for development conference by 2013, and in this regard also recalls the decision of the Assembly to hold informal consultations with a view to taking a final decision on the need for such a conference by 2013, and looks forward to the successful conclusion of these consultations;

20. *Reiterates* its appeal to Member States and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, which would facilitate the implementation of a strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out the financing for development follow-up.

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New York, 2-7 July 2012
Item 13 (g)
Economic and environmental questions: public administration and development

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis-Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations

Venue, dates and provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Decides that the twelfth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 19 April 2013;

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the Committee as set out below:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. The role of responsive and accountable public governance in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda:
   (a) Making public governance work for the post-2015 development agenda;
   (b) Accountability of stakeholders in public governance for development;
   (c) Creating an enabling environment for the post-2015 development agenda.
4. Review of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance.
5. Agenda for the thirteenth session of the Committee of Experts.

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United Nations E/2012/L.28

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New York, 2-27 July 2012
Item 7 (f)
Coordination, programme and other questions: African countries emerging from conflict

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis-Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations

African countries emerging from conflict

The Economic and Social Council,

(a) *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of integrated, coherent and coordinated support to South Sudan[1] and requests that another report on the subject be submitted for the Council's consideration at its substantive session of 2013;

(b) *Invites* the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to inform it of the economic and social challenges of peacebuilding in the African countries on the Commission's agenda.

[1] E/2012/76.

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